MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): There is already a report before the Government that crops have been destroyed. The question is whether taxes have been remitted.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is only an allegation in the petition. A report has to be called for on that petition, it has to be considered and orders passed.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): The report clearly says that crops have been destroyed.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The question whether tax should be remitted for crops already destroyed is still under consideration. I may inform the member that each case has to be enquired into separately.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): The merit in this case is whether crops have been actually destroyed.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Tahsildar cannot sanction remission and hence such cases should be enquired into and reported to higher authorities and it will take some time to go through the above process.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): But he said that he is not in a position to say whether taxes have been collected for the Kanni crop.

Sub-division of Agricultural Holdings.

126. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Are the Government now (November 1927) in possession of information as regards the minute sub-divisions of agricultural holdings that are going on? If so, have they collected information as to the extent to which paddy cultivation is affected by this process and have they considered the desirability of taking action calculated to prevent minute sub-divisions of agricultural holdings?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Government understand that there has been a good deal of sub-division of landed property resulting from partition following on the Nayar and the Ezhava Regulations. They consider that it is too soon to take up the question of legislation to counteract the progress of sub-division; for one thing, it is not expedient to interfere with the action taken by the people in giving effect to the Regulations; another reason why action should be deferred is that the Government see indications which lead them to believe that in course of time re-groupings and consequent enlargement of holdings will take place. For the time being, therefore, they do not propose to intervene in the matter.

Extent of uncultivated Paddy lands.

127. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of paddy land now (November 1927) lying silted up and un-cultivated in the Trivandrum taluk as the result of breaches in irrigation and drainage channels?

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(2) Is not tax due on these lands collected at present?

(3) Are not holdings other than those silted up and left uncultivated sold away in auction for arrears of tax due on the latter?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) No complaint has been received by the Government from any ryot that any paddy land is lying silted up in the Trivandrum taluk as a result of breaches in irrigation and drainage channels.

(2) Yes. No application for remission has been received.

(3) The Government are not aware.

Tree-growths along the ridges of Paddy Lands.

128. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): (1) Are the Government aware that trees of different kinds are allowed to be grown on the sides and ridges of paddy lands and that tree-growths in these places tend to destroy their fertility?

(2) If so, have they considered the desirability of taking action calculated to prevent the growing of trees to the detriment of paddy cultivation?

(3) Has the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, noticed during the last two years instances of such tree-growths injuring paddy cultivation, and if so, has he taken any action in the matter?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2) The Government are aware that on the sides and ridges of paddy lands which have been registered in the names of private individuals who are mostly the owners of adjoining wet lands, trees are sometimes planted by them and that such tree-growth to some extent affects the fertility of those wet lands. In the case of poramboke lands no such planting is allowed and trespassers, if any, are dealt with under the Land Conservancy Regulation. In cases where there are already standing trees on the bunds, they are sometimes leased out; but in such cases an agreement is taken from the party that no fresh trees shall be planted.

(3) Yes. But he is not empowered to take any action in respect of registered lands.

Restrictions on the Assignment of Hill-slopes.

129. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): (1) Are the Government aware that hill-slopes surrounding paddy fields situated in narrow valleys in the Neduvangad taluk are being assigned at present and that fertile paddy fields and their drainage channels get silted up as a result of cultivation on these hill-slopes?

(2) Will they be pleased to issue instructions that such hill-slopes are not to be assigned in future without the written approval of the Chief Engineer or the Director of Agriculture?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) When hill-slopes surrounding paddy fields are assigned, such assignments are ordinarily made in favour of owners of wet lands in the valleys below and such owners are therefore in a position to do all that is necessary to prevent the silting of their paddy lands. If, however, such registries have to be made in favour of other persons on the ground of occupation

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